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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 30 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter which contains the Lebanese Government response to the Israeli allegations that were circulated to Security Council members on 19 April 2010.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 15, "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 30 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 21 April 2010, the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in New York submitted to you an official complaint regarding Deputy Qasim Hashim that contained a number of fallacies. In refutation of the allegations made by Israel, Lebanon would like to affirm that Deputy Qasim Hashim is a Lebanese national and a deputy in the Lebanese Parliament, representing the Hasbayya-Marjayoun region. Contrary to the claims made in the Israeli letter, he did not engage in any acts of provocation. Together with other unarmed Lebanese citizens, he removed a barbed-wire fence which, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), Israeli occupying forces had, some days earlier, put in place inside Lebanese territory, close to the technical fence. Deputy Hashim also raised Lebanese flags in order to affirm Lebanese sovereignty over that territory and demonstrate that the Lebanese people, army and resistance reject Israeli occupation of Lebanese land. Lebanon reiterates its affirmation that Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory constitutes a provocation to the patriotic sensibilities of the Lebanese and Arab peoples and to the feelings of all peoples that reject the aggressive policies of Israel, which it has manifested in repeated invasions of Lebanon and in its insistence on continuing to occupy Lebanese territory, paying no heed to Security Council resolutions and, in particular, resolutions 425 (1978) and 1701 (2006). Israel also repeatedly threatens neighbouring countries, indicating its constant readiness to attack, kill and destroy, and glorying in the power and preparedness of its army to undertake such missions against defenceless and innocent civilians and peaceful peoples.

Lebanon requests the Security Council, the international community and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to bring pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and withdraw forthwith from all Lebanese territory. It is a fact that the continued Israeli occupation and the aggressive Israeli policy are the two main causes of instability and continued tension in Lebanon and the Arab region and, consequently, threaten international peace and security.

(*Signed*) Ali Hussein **Al-Chami**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants